



# Postman Pat and the Fruit Bats







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**P**ostman Pat thought it was going to be a quiet day in Greendale, when suddenly, Julian came whizzing past on his bicycle dressed in a mask and cape!

"Neeeeeow!" roared Julian. "It's Bat Boy to the rescue!"

Julian was on his way to help Amy get things ready for Animal Day.

"Animal Day? What's that?" asked Pat.

"You take your pet along, and Amy tells you how to look after it," said Julian. "There are going to be some extra special guests, too!"

Just then, Pat's mobile phone rang. It was Ben. He had a Special Delivery, and needed Pat to get to the Post Office right away.

"See you later, Bat Boy!" said Pat, as he climbed in the van.







**P**at pulled up at the Post Office and hurried inside. "Hello, Ben!" called Pat.

"Sssh!" said Ben. "Follow me . . ."

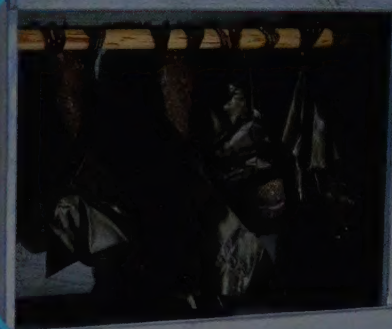
Ben picked up a large box with air holes in it. He slid back the opening to show four bats hanging upside-down from a perch.

"They're fruit bats," he said. "Amy's borrowed them from the Zoo for her Animal Day. It starts at one o'clock."

"Ah, so these are her extra special guests!" said Pat.

"Remember, bats sleep all day and wake up at night. So you've got to be very, very quiet," said Ben.

Then, Ben and Pat carefully loaded the box into the van. Jess hopped into his usual seat and they set off!









**P**at soon got stuck in traffic. The cars were tooting their horns, it was getting very noisy!

Pat was worried that the noise would wake the bats. But when he checked, the bats were still asleep.

Soon Pat had to stop the van because Ted Glen and Alf Thompson were standing in the middle of the lane.

"Ay up, Pat! Want to see my latest invention?" called Ted.

"Can't stop, Ted," replied Pat. "I'm on a special . . ."

But Ted didn't listen. Alf pushed a red button that inflated a large brown paper bag, and then two metal boards clanged together, bursting the bag with a loud BANG!

"I call it the Ted Glen Automatic Bird Scaring Machine!" called Ted. "Impressive, eh?"







**P**at heard shuffling noises coming from the van.

"Oh no!" said Pat, "my special delivery!"

Pat opened the doors of the van and saw his special delivery jumping about! He peeked inside the box to check that the bats were OK. But as he slid open the door of the box, they burst past him and fluttered away!

Pat quickly called Ben on his mobile phone to find out how he could find the bats. Ben told Pat that the bats would look for somewhere dark, quiet and high up to go back to sleep.

Pat came up with a plan. He asked Alf to search the station because the bats might be hiding in the roof, and Ted to search the barns at his Watermill. He and Jess would search the village.







**B**ill and Julian were helping Amy set up the Animal Day. "I wonder what's happened to Pat?" she said.

The boys went to look for him. When they found him, Julian called "Dad! Can we see the bats?"

"Sorry, boys, they escaped. We're trying to find them," said Pat. "We know they like dark, quiet places where they can hang upside-down . . ." Suddenly he had an idea.

Pat phoned Ted at the Watermill. "Ted, Can you go to the upper level where you hang your washing?" said Pat. "Can you see anything odd?" he added.

"Some pants, my socks, a pair . . . oh, I say, Pat . . . bats," whispered Ted.

"Stay there, Ted. We're coming," said Pat.









On his way, Pat rang Alf from his hands-free mobile phone and told him to meet them at Ted's Watermill.

"The bats are in here, Alf," called Pat, as Alf's truck pulled up.

Alf saw something that looked like big butterfly net beside the garage. He picked it up, thinking it might come in handy.

"Can we come too, Dad?" asked Julian.

"Sorry, boys. You'd better wait here. We don't want to frighten the bats. Come on, Alf," said Pat, as he went inside.

The bat heroes were disappointed.

Julian found two apples in his backpack and gave one to Bill. The boys waited for Pat.







**T**ed Glen was at the top of the stairs when Pat arrived.

"Are you coming up here to get them or not?" he said. He really didn't want to be up there with the bats any longer.

"We're on our way, Ted," said Pat, in a hushed voice.

Pat and Alf climbed the stairs to the roof as quietly as they could. Pat stood on the landing and leaned out towards the nearest bat with the net. But the bats were just out of reach.

"Can you reel in the washing line a little, Ted?" asked Pat.

So, Ted steadily reeled in the line, and slowly the bats got closer and closer to Pat.

"That's it. Easy does it," said Pat. "Almost there . . ."





**O**utside, Bill was bored. He wanted to be in on the action.

"Let's see how they're getting on with the bats," said Bill, dropping his half-eaten apple.

"But, Dad said . . ." replied Julian.

"We won't scare them if we're quiet, they won't even know we're there," said Bill.

Julian and Bill slipped in through the front door. When inside, they tip-toed around for a good place to hide. Behind Ted Glenn's giant cooker on wheels seemed a good spot.

"Wow!" gasped Julian, when he spied the bats.

Bill peered over the machine but pushed the start button by mistake. The machine made the most terrible noise.





**"BILL!** Oh, no!" called Julian.

"What's going on?" cried Alf.

Everyone was shouting at the same time and the poor bats could sleep no longer. They fluttered around the roof of the Watermill, trying to escape the noise.

In all the excitement, no one had noticed that the front door had blown wide open! When the bats flew past Pat, he saw where they were headed . . . outside!

"The door!" yelled Pat, rushing down the stairs.

But he was too late. The bats flew straight out the door and were gone!





**I**n the village, people were gathering for the Animal Day.

Lucy and Sarah had helped string up the balloons, but now they were fed up of waiting around. Sarah kept looking up the road for Pat's van. Mrs Goggins was there too, with Bonnie who kept yapping at Pumpkin.

And poor Amy was pacing up and down, wondering why Pat was so late. "It's almost one o'clock. I can't start the Animal Day without the special bats," she said.

Amy asked everyone to be patient and crossed her fingers, hoping that Pat's van would pull up at any moment.





**A**t the Watermill, the bats were hanging from a dark corner. How could Pat get the bats back?



Then Pat stepped on Bill's half-eaten apple. "This should be in a bin, boys. But . . ." said Pat. "I wonder? Ted, this gives me an idea!"

Pat placed the bat box on the ground and placed Bill and Julian's half-eaten apples inside.

"They're fruit bats!" said Pat. "They love apples! When they fly inside to eat the apple, we can slide the door shut."

They all waited and watched. Soon the bats flew to the box to get at the apples, and when they all were inside, Pat carefully closed the opening.

"Let's get this Special Delivery back on track!" said Pat.







**A** crowd had gathered outside Amy's house. Amy had almost given up hope, but then she saw Pat's van.

"Pat!" called Amy. "Have you got my special guests?"

"I have," smiled Pat. "But before I introduce you, everyone must be very quiet," he said, "because they're asleep."

Once the crowd was silent, Pat gently slid open the box. There they were – a family of sleepy bats.

"Thank you so much for getting them to me, Pat," said Amy.

"I couldn't have done it without Ted and Alf!" replied Pat.

The crowd looked at Julian, Bill, Ted and Alf, who were proud to have helped.

"Special Delivery Service: mission accomplished!" said Pat.









Postman Pat has a very special delivery – a box of sleepy bats! They are going to be the star attraction at Amy's Animal Day. But when the bats wake up and escape from Pat's van, they cause all sorts of bother! Can Pat catch all the bats in time for Amy's show?



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